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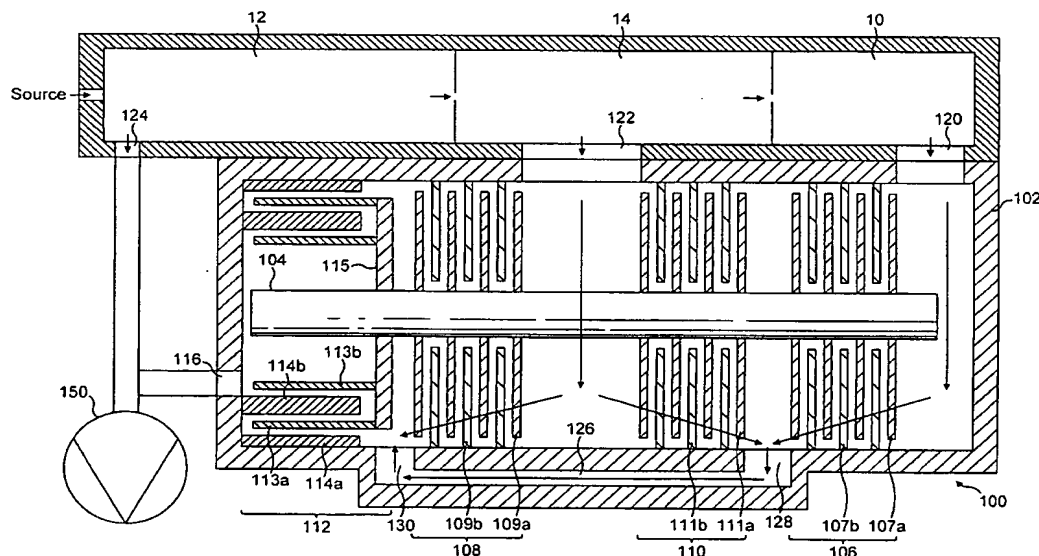
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(54) Title: **VACUUM PUMP**



(57) Abstract: A vacuum pump (100) comprises a first set (106) of turbo-molecular stages, a molecular drag stage (112), a first inlet (120) through which fluid can pass through the first set (106) of stages and the molecular drag stage (112) towards a pump outlet (116), second and third sets (108, 110) of turbo-molecular stages located between the first set (106) and the molecular drag stage (112), a second inlet (122), the second and third sets (108, 110) being arranged such that fluid entering the pump through the second inlet (122) is separated into two streams each flowing through a respective one of the second and third sets (108, 110), and conduit means (126) for conveying fluid passing through the first set (106) and one of the second and third sets (108, 110) towards the outlet (116).



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